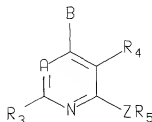
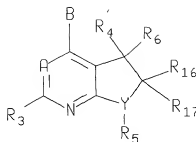


CLAIMS

1. A compound of the formula

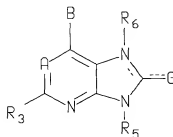


I



II

or



III

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

- 5 the dashed lines represent optional double bonds, with the proviso that when the dashed line in N(R<sub>6</sub>)—C does not represent a double bond; and with the proviso that when the dashed line in N(R<sub>6</sub>)—C represents a double bond, R<sub>6</sub> is absent in formula III and the dashed line in C—G does not represent a double bond;
- 10 A is -CR<sub>7</sub> or N;  
B is -NR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, -CR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, -C(=CR<sub>2</sub>R<sub>12</sub>)R<sub>1</sub>, -NHCHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, -OCHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, -SCHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, -CHR<sub>2</sub>OR<sub>1</sub>, -CHR<sub>1</sub>OR<sub>2</sub>, -CHR<sub>2</sub>SR<sub>1</sub>, -C(S)R<sub>2</sub>, -C(O)R<sub>2</sub>, -CHR<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, -CHR<sub>1</sub>NHR<sub>2</sub>, -CHR<sub>1</sub>N(CH<sub>3</sub>)R<sub>2</sub>, or -NR<sub>12</sub>NR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>;

when the dashed line in C---G represents a double bond, then G is hydrogen, oxygen, sulfur, NH, or N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl);

when the dashed line in C---G does not represent a double bond, then C---G is - C(H)(NH<sub>2</sub>), CH<sub>2</sub>, -C(H)(methoxy), -C(H)(ethoxy), -C(H)(O(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)), -C(H)(halo), - C(H)(trifluoromethoxy), -C(H)(methyl), -C(H)(ethyl), -C(H)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -C(H)(S(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)), - C(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), cyclopropyl, -C(H)(cyclopropyl), thiomethoxy, -C(H)(NH<sub>2</sub>), - C(H)(NHCH<sub>3</sub>), -C(H)(N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), or -C(H)(trifluoromethyl);

wherein said cyclopropyl, methoxy, ethoxy, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl groups of C---G may optionally be substituted by one OH, methoxy, or trifluoromethoxy, or may optionally be substituted by from one to six fluoro atoms;

Y is CH or N;

Z is NH, O, S, -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -NC(O)CF<sub>3</sub>, or -C(R<sub>13</sub>R<sub>14</sub>), wherein R<sub>13</sub> and R<sub>14</sub> are each, independently, hydrogen, trifluoromethyl or methyl, or one of R<sub>13</sub> and R<sub>14</sub> is cyano and the other is hydrogen or methyl, or -C(R<sub>13</sub>R<sub>14</sub>) is a cyclopropyl group, or Z is nitrogen or CH and forms a five or six membered heterocyclic ring fused with R<sub>5</sub>, which ring optionally comprises two or three further hetero members selected independently from oxygen, nitrogen, NR<sub>12</sub>, and S(O)<sub>m</sub>, and optionally comprises from one to three double bonds, and is optionally substituted with halo, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, -O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), NH<sub>2</sub>, NHCH<sub>3</sub>, N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>, or OCF<sub>3</sub>, with the proviso that said ring does not contain any -S-S-, -S-O-, -N-S-, or -O-O- bonds, and does not comprise more than two oxygen or S(O)<sub>m</sub> heterologous members;

R<sub>1</sub> is C(O)H, C(O)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), C(O)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), C(O)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), C(O)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl), -C(O)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl, - (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl), or -O-aryl, or -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene)-aryl; wherein said aryl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene, and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene groups may each independently be optionally substituted with from one to six fluoro and may each independently be optionally substituted with one or two substituents R<sub>8</sub> independently selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, -C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, hydroxy, chloro, bromo, iodo, CF<sub>3</sub>, -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), -O-(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkyl), -O-CO-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -O-CO-NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -O-CO-N(R<sub>24</sub>)(R<sub>25</sub>), -N(R<sub>24</sub>)(R<sub>25</sub>), -S(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -S(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkyl), -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)CO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -NHCO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -COO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -CONH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -CON(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, -OSO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), S<sup>+</sup>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl)<sup>+</sup>, -SO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl) and -SO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl); and wherein the C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene, and C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl moieties of R<sub>1</sub> may optionally independently contain from one to three double or triple bonds; and wherein the C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl

moieties and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl moieties of R<sub>8</sub> can optionally independently be substituted with hydroxy, amino, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, aryl, -CH<sub>2</sub>-aryl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkyl, or -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), and can optionally independently be substituted with from one to six fluoro, and can optionally contain one or two double or triple bonds; and wherein each heterocycloalkyl group of R<sub>1</sub> contains from

- 5 one to three heteromoieties selected from oxygen, S(O)<sub>m</sub>, nitrogen, and NR<sub>12</sub>;
- R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> heterocycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl), aryl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene)aryl, or -
- 10 (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)aryl; wherein each of the foregoing R<sub>2</sub> groups may optionally be substituted with from one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, fluoro, and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, wherein one of said one to three substituents can further be selected from bromo, iodo, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, -OH, -O-CO-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), -O-CO-N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -S(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), -S(O)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), -S(O)<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), S<sup>+</sup>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl)<sup>+</sup>, CN, and NO<sub>2</sub>, and wherein
- 15 the C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene), and -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl) moieties of R<sub>2</sub> may optionally independently contain from one to three double or triple bonds; and wherein each heterocycloalkyl group of R<sub>2</sub> contains from one to three heteromoieties selected from oxygen, S(O)<sub>m</sub>, nitrogen, and NR<sub>12</sub>;

- or when R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are as in -NHCHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, -OCHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, -SCHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, -CHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub> or -NR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> of B may form a saturated 5- to 8-membered ring which may optionally contain one or
- 20 two double bonds and in which one or two of the ring carbons may optionally be replaced by an oxygen, S(O)<sub>m</sub>, nitrogen or NR<sub>12</sub>; and which carbocyclic ring can optionally be substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, CF<sub>3</sub>, -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -O-CO-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -O-CO-NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -O-CO-N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -S(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -N(C<sub>1</sub>-
- 25 C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)CO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -NHCO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -COO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -CONH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -CON(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, -OSO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -SO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), and -SO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), wherein one of said one to three substituents can further be selected from phenyl;

- R<sub>3</sub> is methyl, ethyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, cyano, methoxy, OCF<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>2</sub>, NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -NHCOCF<sub>3</sub>, -NHCH<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>, S(O)<sub>m</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), CONH<sub>2</sub>, -CONHCH<sub>3</sub>, CON(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>,
- 30 -CF<sub>3</sub>, or CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>;

- R<sub>4</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkyl), cyano, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, -OR<sub>24</sub>, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, -O-(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkyl), -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkyl), -O-(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkyl), -CH<sub>2</sub>SC(S)(O)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -CH<sub>2</sub>OCF<sub>3</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>, amino, nitro, -NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)-
- 35 -OR<sub>24</sub>, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)Cl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -NHCOR<sub>24</sub>, -NHCONR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -C=NOR<sub>24</sub>, -NHNHR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -S(O)<sub>m</sub>R<sub>24</sub>, -C(O)R<sub>24</sub>, -OC(O)R<sub>24</sub>, -C(O)CN, -C(O)NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -C(O)NHNHR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, and -

COOR<sub>24</sub>, wherein the alkyl and alkylene groups of R<sub>4</sub> may optionally independently contain one or two double or triple bonds and may optionally independently be substituted with one or two substituents R<sub>10</sub> independently selected from hydroxy, amino, -NHCOCH<sub>3</sub>, -NHCOCH<sub>2</sub>Cl, -NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -COO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -COOH, -CO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> thioalkyl, cyano and nitro, and with one to four substituents independently selected from fluoro and chloro;

R<sub>5</sub> is aryl or heteroaryl and is substituted with from one to four substituents R<sub>27</sub> independently selected from halo, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkoxy, nitro, cyano, -NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -NR<sub>24</sub>COR<sub>25</sub>, -NR<sub>24</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>26</sub>, -COR<sub>24</sub>, -OR<sub>25</sub>, -CONR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -CO(NOR<sub>22</sub>)R<sub>23</sub>, -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>26</sub>, -C=N(OR<sub>22</sub>)R<sub>23</sub>, and -S(O)<sub>m</sub>R<sub>23</sub>; wherein said C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene), (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene), and (C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl) groups can be optionally substituted with from one to three substituents independently selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, nitro halo, cyano, -NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -NR<sub>24</sub>COR<sub>25</sub>, -NR<sub>24</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>26</sub>, -COR<sub>24</sub>, -OR<sub>25</sub>, -CONR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>26</sub>, -CO(NOR<sub>22</sub>)R<sub>25</sub>, and -S(O)<sub>m</sub>R<sub>23</sub>; and wherein two adjacent substituents of the R<sub>5</sub> group can optionally form a 5-7 membered ring, saturated or unsaturated, fused to R<sup>5</sup>, which ring optionally can contain one, two, or three heterologous members independently selected from O, S(O)<sub>m</sub>, and N, but not any -S-S-, -O-O-, -S-O-, or -N-S- bonds, and which ring is optionally substituted with C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl, nitro, halo, cyano -NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -NR<sub>24</sub>COR<sub>25</sub>, -NR<sub>24</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>26</sub>, -COR<sub>24</sub>, -OR<sub>25</sub>, -CONR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>26</sub>, -CO(NOR<sub>28</sub>)R<sub>25</sub>, or -S(O)<sub>m</sub>R<sub>23</sub>; wherein one of said one to four optional substituents R<sub>27</sub> can further be selected from -SO<sub>2</sub>NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -SO<sub>2</sub>NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -SO<sub>2</sub>NH(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -SO<sub>2</sub>NH(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -SO<sub>2</sub>N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -SO<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, -NHSO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -NHSO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -NHSO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), and -NHSO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl); and wherein the alkyl and alkylene groups of R<sub>5</sub> may independently optionally contain one double or triple bond;

R<sub>6</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), or -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), wherein said alkyl and cycloalkyl may optionally be substituted with one hydroxy, methoxy, ethoxy or fluoro group;

or, wherein the compound is a compound of formula II, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> can together form an oxo (=O) group, or can be connected to form a 3-8 membered carbocyclic ring, optionally containing one to three double bonds, and optionally containing one, two, or three heterologous

ring members selected from O, SO<sub>m</sub>, N, and NR<sub>12</sub>, but not containing any -O-O-, -S-O-, -S-S-, or -N-S- bonds, and further optionally substituted with C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, wherein said C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl substituent may optionally contain one double or triple bond;

R<sub>7</sub> is hydrogen, methyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, cyano, hydroxy, -O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -O(cyclopropyl), -COO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -COO(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -OCF<sub>3</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>OH, or CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>;

R<sub>11</sub> is hydrogen, hydroxy, fluoro, ethoxy, or methoxy;

R<sub>12</sub> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl;

R<sub>16</sub> and R<sub>17</sub> are each, independently, hydrogen, hydroxy, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, or ethoxy, except that R<sub>16</sub> and R<sub>17</sub> are not both methoxy or ethoxy;

or R<sub>16</sub> and R<sub>17</sub> together form an oxo (=O) group;

or R<sub>16</sub> and R<sub>17</sub> are connected to form a 3-8 membered carbocyclic ring, optionally containing one to three double bonds, and optionally containing from one to three heterologous ring members selected from O, SO<sub>m</sub>, N, and NR<sub>12</sub>, but not containing any -O-O-, -S-O-, -S-S-, or -N-S- bonds, and further optionally substituted with C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, wherein said C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl substituent may optionally contain one double or triple bond;

R<sub>22</sub> is independently at each occurrence selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), and (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl);

R<sub>23</sub> is independently at each occurrence selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkoxyalkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), aryl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)aryl, piperidine, pyrrolidine, piperazine, N-methylpiperazine, morpholine, and thiomorpholine;

R<sub>24</sub> and R<sub>25</sub> are independently at each occurrence selected from hydrogen, -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl, especially CF<sub>3</sub>, -CHF<sub>2</sub>, CF<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>, or CH<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)OH, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)-O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)-O-(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl), aryl, and -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(aryl), wherein the -C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocycloalkyl groups can each independently optionally be substituted with aryl, CH<sub>2</sub>-aryl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, and can optionally contain one or two double or triple bonds; or, when R<sub>24</sub> and R<sub>25</sub> are as NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -C(O)NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, or -NHCONR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, then NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub> may further optionally form a 4 to 8 membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or two further hetero members independently selected from S(O)<sub>m</sub>, oxygen, nitrogen, and NR<sub>12</sub>, and optionally containing from one to three double bonds;

R<sub>28</sub> is independently at each occurrence selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), aryl, and -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)(aryl); and

wherein each m is independently zero, one, or two,

- 5 with the proviso that heterocycloalkyl groups of the compound of formula I, II, or III do not comprise any -S-S-, -S-O-, -N-S-, or -O-O- bonds, and do not comprise more than two oxygen or S(O)<sub>m</sub> heterologous members.

2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R<sub>4</sub> is -NHCH<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>, -CONHNH<sub>2</sub>, -CONHNHCH<sub>3</sub>, -OCF<sub>3</sub>, fluoro, -OCHF<sub>2</sub>, -OCH<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkyl), -O-(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkyl), -SCH<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkyl), -S(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> cycloalkyl), -OCH<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, chloro, bromo, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>OH, -CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>OCF<sub>3</sub>, -SCH<sub>3</sub>, -S(O)CH<sub>3</sub>, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, -C(O)CH<sub>3</sub>, -NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -CH(OH)CH<sub>3</sub>, or -CN.

3. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R<sub>4</sub> is -C(O)NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub> or -C(O)NHNHNR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>.

- 15 4. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R<sub>4</sub> is -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>.

5. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R<sub>4</sub> is -COOCH<sub>3</sub> or -COOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>.

6. A compound of formula I according to claim 1, wherein Z is O; B is -NHCHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is -C(O)H, -C(O)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), or -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, wherein said C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl is optionally substituted with from one to six fluoro atoms or one or two R<sub>8</sub> independently selected from -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, hydroxy and -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), and wherein R<sub>2</sub> is -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl optionally containing from one to three double or triple bonds and optionally substituted with from one three substituents selected from fluoro and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl; R<sub>5</sub> is phenyl, pyridyl or pyrimidyl, substituted with two or three R<sub>27</sub> groups selected from halo, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl), -C(O)R<sub>24</sub>, -OR<sub>25</sub>, -C(O)NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl which is optionally substituted with one to three substituents, preferably one substituent, selected from hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, and -NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>; and R<sub>4</sub> is -C(O)NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>.

7. A compound of formula I according to claim 1, wherein Z is O; B is -NHCHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, wherein R<sub>1</sub> of -NHCHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub> is -C(O)H, -C(O)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), or -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, wherein said C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl is optionally substituted with from one to six fluoro atoms or one or two R<sub>8</sub> independently selected from -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, hydroxy and -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), and wherein R<sub>2</sub> of -NHCHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub> is -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl optionally containing from one to three double or triple bonds and optionally substituted with from one three substituents selected from fluoro and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl; R<sub>5</sub> is phenyl, pyridyl or pyrimidyl, substituted with two or three R<sub>27</sub> groups selected from halo, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> haloalkyl), -C(O)R<sub>24</sub>, -OR<sub>25</sub>, -C(O)NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>, and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl which is optionally substituted with one to three substituents, preferably one substituent, selected from hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, and -NR<sub>24</sub>R<sub>25</sub>; and R<sub>4</sub> is -NR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, wherein R<sub>1</sub> of -NR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl.

C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, or -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), and R<sub>2</sub> of -NR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl optionally containing from one to three double or triple bonds and optionally substituted with from one three fluoro atoms.

8. A compound according to claim 1 selected from:

- 5 2-(4-chloro-2,6-dimethyl-phenoxy)-4-(1-hydroxymethyl-propylamino)-6,N-dimethyl-nicotinamide;  
2-(4-chloro-2,6-dimethyl-phenoxy)-4-(1-methoxymethyl-propylamino)-6,N-dimethyl-nicotinamide;  
2-(4-chloro-2,6-dimethyl-phenoxy)-4-(1-methoxymethyl-propylamino)-6-methyl-nicotinamide;  
10 2-(4-bromo-2-methoxy-phenoxy)-4-(1-ethyl-propylamino)-6-methyl-nicotinamide;  
2-(4-chloro-2,6-dimethyl-phenoxy)-4-(1-ethyl-2-methoxy-propylamino)-6-methyl-nicotinamide;  
2-(4-chloro-2,6-dimethyl-phenoxy)-4-(1-ethyl-2-methoxy-propylamino)-6,N-dimethyl-nicotinamide;  
15 2-(4-chloro-2-trifluoromethoxy-phenoxy)-4-(1-ethyl-propylamino)-6-methyl-nicotinamide;  
2-(4-chloro-2-trifluoromethoxy-phenoxy)-4-(1-ethyl-propylamino)-6,N-dimethyl-nicotinamide;  
20 2-(4-chloro-2,6-dimethyl-phenoxy)-4-(1S,2R-1-ethyl-2-methoxy-propylamino)-6,N-dimethyl-nicotinamide;  
2-(4-chloro-2,6-dimethyl-phenoxy)-4-(1S,2S-1-ethyl-2-methoxy-propylamino)-6,N-dimethyl-nicotinamide;  
2-(4-bromo-2-methoxy-phenoxy)-4-(1-ethyl-propylamino)-6-methyl-nicotinonitrile;  
25 4-[4-(1-ethyl-propoxy)-3,6-dimethyl-pyridin-2-yloxy]-3,5-dimethyl-benzamide;  
2-(4-chloro-2,6-dimethyl-phenoxy)-6-methyl-4-(1-methylsulfanylmethyl-propylamino)-nicotinic acid methyl ester;  
2-(4-chloro-2,6-dimethyl-phenoxy)-4-(1-hydroxymethyl-propylamino)-6-methyl-nicotinic acid methyl ester;  
30 2-(4-bromo-2,6-dimethyl-phenoxy)-4-(1-ethyl-propylamino)-6-methyl-nicotinonitrile;  
2-(4-chloro-2-trifluoromethoxy-phenoxy)-4-(1-ethyl-propylamino)-6-methyl-nicotinic acid methyl ester; and  
2-(4-chloro-2,6-dimethyl-phenoxy)-6-methyl-4-(tetrahydro-furan-3-ylamino)-nicotinic acid methyl ester;  
35 and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

9. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of (a) a disorder or condition the treatment of which can be effected or facilitated by antagonizing CRF, including but not limited to disorders induced or facilitated by CRF, or (b) a disorder or condition selected from inflammatory disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis, pain, asthma, psoriasis and allergies; generalized anxiety disorder; panic; phobias, including social phobia, agoraphobia, and specific phobias; obsessive-compulsive disorder; post-traumatic stress disorder; sleep disorders induced by stress; pain perception such as fibromyalgia; mood disorders such as depression, including major depression, single episode depression, recurrent depression, child abuse induced depression, mood disorders associated with premenstrual syndrome, and postpartum depression; dysthemia; bipolar disorders; cyclothymia; chronic fatigue syndrome; stress-induced headache; cancer; irritable bowel syndrome, Crohn's disease; spastic colon; post operative ileus; ulcer; diarrhea; stress-induced fever; human immunodeficiency virus infections; neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and Huntington's disease; gastrointestinal diseases; eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia nervosa; hemorrhagic stress; chemical dependencies or addictions, including dependencies or addictions to alcohol, cocaine, heroin, benzodiazepines, or other drugs; drug or alcohol withdrawal symptoms; stress-induced psychotic episodes; euthyroid sick syndrome; syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone; obesity; infertility; head trauma; spinal cord trauma; ischemic neuronal damage, including cerebral ischemia, for example cerebral hippocampal ischemia; excitotoxic neuronal damage; epilepsy; stroke; immune dysfunctions including stress induced immune dysfunctions, including porcine stress syndrome, bovine shipping fever, equine paroxysmal fibrillation, confinement dysfunction in chicken, sheering stress in sheep, and human-animal interaction stress in dogs; muscular spasms; urinary incontinence; senile dementia of the Alzheimer's type; multiinfarct dementia; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; hypertension; tachycardia; congestive heart failure; osteoporosis; premature birth; hypoglycemia, and Syndrome X in a mammal or bird, comprising an amount of a compound according to claim 1 that is effective in the treatment of such disorder or condition, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
10. A method for the treatment of (a) a disorder or condition the treatment of which can be effected or facilitated by antagonizing CRF, including but not limited to disorders induced or facilitated by CRF, or (b) a disorder or condition selected from inflammatory disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis, pain, asthma, psoriasis and allergies; generalized anxiety disorder; panic; phobias, including social phobia, agoraphobia, and specific phobias; obsessive-compulsive disorder; post-traumatic stress disorder; sleep disorders induced by stress; pain perception such as fibromyalgia; mood disorders such as



depression, including major depression, single episode depression, recurrent depression, child abuse induced depression, mood disorders associated with premenstrual syndrome, and postpartum depression; dysthemia; bipolar disorders; cyclothymia; chronic fatigue syndrome; stress-induced headache; cancer; irritable bowel syndrome, Crohn's disease; 5 spastic colon; post operative ileus; ulcer; diarrhea; stress-induced fever; human immunodeficiency virus infections; neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and Huntington's disease; gastrointestinal diseases; eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia nervosa; hemorrhagic stress; chemical dependencies or addictions, including dependencies or addictions to alcohol, cocaine, heroin, 10 benzodiazepines, or other drugs; drug or alcohol withdrawal symptoms; stress-induced psychotic episodes; euthyroid sick syndrome; syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone; obesity; infertility; head trauma; spinal cord trauma; ischemic neuronal damage, including cerebral ischemia, for example cerebral hippocampal ischemia; excitotoxic neuronal damage; epilepsy; stroke; immune dysfunctions including stress induced immune 15 dysfunctions, including porcine stress syndrome, bovine shipping fever, equine paroxysmal fibrillation, confinement dysfunction in chicken, sheering stress in sheep, and human-animal interaction stress in dogs; muscular spasms; urinary incontinence; senile dementia of the Alzheimer's type; multiinfarct dementia; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; hypertension; tachycardia; congestive heart failure; osteoporosis; premature birth; hypoglycemia, and 20 Syndrome X in a mammal or bird, comprising administering to a subject in need of said treatment an amount of a compound according to claim 1, that is effective in treating such disorder or condition.

11. A method of treating a condition comprising administering a compound of claim 1 in an amount effective to treat said condition, wherein said condition is selected from 25 the group consisting of:

- a) abnormal circadian rhythm;
- b) depression, further wherein a second compound for treating depression is administered, said second compound for treating depression having an onset of action that is delayed with respect to that of said CRF antagonist; and 30
- c) emesis.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the condition is abnormal circadian rhythm, and the compound is combined with a second compound useful for treating a sleep disorder.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said second compound is selected from the 35 group consisting of tachykinin antagonists, agonists for GABA brain receptors, metalonergic

compounds, GABA brain receptor agonists, 5HT<sub>2</sub> receptor antagonists, and D4 receptor binding.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein said condition is depression, and wherein said second compound having delayed action for treating depression is selected from the group consisting of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, tricyclic antidepressants, norepinephrine uptake inhibitors, lithium, bupropion, sertraline, fluoxetine, trazodone, and a tricyclic antidepressant selected from the group consisting of imipramine, amitriptyline, trimipramine, doxepin, desipramine, nortriptyline, protriptyline, amoxapine, clomipramine, maprotiline, and carbamazepine, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters of the above-recited compounds.

15. The method claim 11 wherein said condition is emesis, further comprising administering a second compound for treating emesis.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein said second compound for treating emesis is selected from the group consisting of tachykinin antagonists, 5HT<sub>3</sub> antagonists, GABA agonists, and substance P inhibitors.

17. A pharmaceutical composition for treating a condition comprising a compound of claim 1 in an amount effective to treat said condition and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said condition is selected from the group consisting of:

a) abnormal circadian rhythm;

b) depression, further wherein a second compound for treating depression is administered, said second compound for treating depression having an onset of action that is delayed with respect to that of said CRF antagonist; and

c) emesis.

18. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 17, wherein the condition is abnormal circadian rhythm, and the compound is combined with a second compound useful for treating a sleep disorder.

19. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 18, wherein said second compound is selected from the group consisting of tachykinin antagonists, agonists for GABA brain receptors, metalonergic compounds, GABA brain receptor agonists, 5HT<sub>2</sub> receptor antagonists, and D4 receptor binding.

20. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 17 wherein said condition is depression, and wherein said second compound having delayed action for treating depression is selected from the group consisting of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, tricyclic antidepressants, norepinephrine uptake inhibitors, lithium, bupropion, sertraline, fluoxetine, trazodone, and a tricyclic antidepressant selected from the group consisting of

21. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 17 wherein said condition is  
5 emesis, further comprising administering a second compound for treating emesis.

22. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 21 wherein said second compound for treating emesis is selected from the group consisting of tachykinin antagonists, 5HT<sub>3</sub> antagonists, GABA agonists, and substance P inhibitors.